

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today is the Fifth Sunday of Easter. Last week we celebrated Good Shepherd Sunday.

He is The Good Shepherd who leads us Home! Today we hear in Saint John's Gospel "*I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower*" JOHN 15:1 He goes on to say, "*Remain in Me and I remain in you*". JOHN 1:4

*If you remain in me and my words remain in you,
ask for whatever you want, and it will be done for you.*

*By this is my Father glorified,
that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."* JOHN 1:7-8

It is by the fruits of our prayers and our works and labors that we as a community become more and more the disciples of Jesus Christ. We begin to integrate more and more the story of Jesus Christ by living as His disciples in the world. The gospels of the Easter season including those as the gospel of the "Road to Emmaus," "The Appearances of the Risen Christ," "The Good Shepherd" and today "The Vine Grower" really speak about Christ's story that can become our story! This story highlights the Eucharist! As the Easter Season unfolds, we enter into a greater understanding of what the Eucharist means to each and every one of us, at Mass and how our lives are changed by this very celebration. Our openness leads us to our participation in the celebration, and ultimately how we integrate this gift into our own lives and therefore become the Eucharist for one another.

When I was a teenager, I went through a period where I questioned: "How do I know that I really believe?" Did you ever wonder about the doctrines of our Catholic faith? Brothers and sisters the bottom line is: We can go so far in studying theology. We, like St. Anselm, may have our faith-seeking understanding. However, we finally get to a point where we are able to say: We know we believe by how we live. Let us live as disciples of Jesus Christ, taking the story of Christ and making it part of our family story, our parish story, etc. Then we will know we believe by the fruits that come from the Gift of the Holy Spirit!

Again, congratulations to all our First Communicants who received Jesus for the first time this weekend and next weekend.

New Session of our Lazarus Bereavement Group

We have been having great demand for our Bereavement Group. We typically run the group twice a year. Because of demand we are looking at perhaps increasing the frequency at a future time.

We are very thankful to have the group under the direction of Dr. Chris Hayes assisted by Deacon Chris Ervin. This particular model is based on a very successful program from the Archdiocese of Hartford and runs for nine weeks. Dr. Hayes has developed and customized it for use by our parish and has been teaching Bereavement facilitators in a class he gives for the Diocese of Rockville Centre as well.

Everyone is always welcome to join our Bereavement group.

*Come Holy Spirit, Come during the Easter Season of Joy,
Father Ed*

